



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## GOVERNOR BREDESEN DECLARES OCTOBER FIRE SAFETY MONTH

NASHVILLE – Recognizing the need to combat the state's high rate of fire death, Governor Phil Bredesen has proclaimed October "Fire Safety Month."

"Each year far too many Tennesseans perish as a result of fires," said Governor Bredesen. "We are committed to working with our local fire departments, community leaders, businesses and educators to raise public awareness about fire prevention and to save lives."

Fire Safe Tennessee, a public-private partnership of state officials, fire fighters, codes officials, businesses, educators and local leaders, is working to lower the fire death rate through education, prevention and research initiatives. This year, its goals include the recruitment and training of fire service educators in every county, increasing the use of smoke alarms in Tennessee homes, and collecting accurate fire data from every Tennessee fire department.

Tennessee Titan and volunteer firefighter Erron Kinney is the spokesperson for the program, and is featured in television public service announcements. The Fire Safe Tennessee effort also includes a smoke alarm donation program, sponsored by BRK Brands, makers of First Alert products, and batteries donated by Energizer.

"Tennessee firefighters have always been involved in fire prevention and fire safety education, but they can't do the job alone," said State Fire Marshal Paula Flowers. "Tennessee's rate of fire death is double the national average, and that's unacceptable. We're taking this on as a public safety issue that involves everyone. ."

Commissioner Flowers will announce the preliminary 2003 fire death data during a press conference at 1 p.m. Monday, October 4 on the steps of the Capitol Building.

For more information, see the Fire Safe Tennessee Web site at: [www.tennessee.gov/firesafety](http://www.tennessee.gov/firesafety).

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*Note: Please see attached list of "Fire Safe Tennessee" members.*

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## **Fire Safety Month Release**

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#### **2004 Fire Safe Tennessee Members:**

William Steffenhagen- American Institute of Architects, Tennessee Chapter  
Jeff Kidwell- Tennessee Building Officials Association  
Jerry Swaim- Tennessee Department of Education  
Judy Smith- Tennessee Department of Human Services  
Revida Glover- Tennessee Farm Bureau  
Barron Kennedy, III- Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association  
Randy Fox- Tennessee Public Fire and Life Safety Educators Association  
Wink Brown- Tennessee Firemen's Association  
Tony Shipp- Independent Insurors of Tennessee  
Dr. Jeffrey Guy- Tennessee Pediatric Association  
Jerry Gillis- Tennessee Association of REALTORS  
The Honorable Don McLeary- Senator  
Paul Trumpore- Tennessee Federation of Fire Chaplains  
Meredith Sullivan- Fire Safe Tennessee Director  
Paula Flowers- Commissioner and State Fire Marshal  
Emmett Turner- Assistant Commissioner for Fire Prevention  
Karen Alexander- Marketing Director for the Fire and Codes Academy  
Dana Turner – Public Fire Education Coordinator

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